Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Rm 2
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Region
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Project Title: Elk River Lower Valley Restoration Monitoring

Project Location: Elk River, Humboldt County

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the California Trout North Coast Region pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for scientific purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take longfin smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), Southern Oregon/Northern California ESU coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), and Northern California DPS summer-run steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus)* during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is for the California Trout North Coast Region's Elk River Lower Valley Restoration Monitoring. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture longfin smelt, coho salmon, and steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round pre-project and post-project monitoring research through the use of beach seines, minnow traps, and fyke nets through December 31, 2025.

California Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Matthew Metheny, California Trout North Coast Region

Exempt Status:

☐ Ministerial;

☐ Declared Emergency;

☐ Emergency Project;

☒ Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Calif. Code Regs., § 15306, Information Collection, Class 6

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project involves pre- and post-project monitoring research within the Elk River which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to longfin smelt, coho salmon, and steelhead trout which are all listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep **Telephone:** (707) 317-3924

Signature: _____ **Date:** ___**1/24/2024**_____
Dr. Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

☐ Signed by Lead Agency Date Received for filing at OPR: _____